

STATE OF COLORADO

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Jane E. Norton
Lieutenant Governor

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LT. GOVERNOR NORTON TO HOST 4th ANNUAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION

Tribal Elders to be honored during Annual Celebration

(Denver)- Lieutenant Governor Jane Norton, as Chair of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs, with support from Chairman Clement Frost of Colorado's Southern Ute Tribe and Chairman Manuel Heart of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, will preside over the state's fourth annual American Indian Heritage Month Celebration. The event is scheduled for November 7, 2006 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Governor's residence in Denver.

In June 2003, the General Assembly passed House Joint Resolution 03-1052, which proclaimed that November, and each November hereafter, would be recognized as American Indian Heritage Month in the State of Colorado. It is a time set aside to focus on educating the public about the contributions, intertribal cultures, heritage and traditions of the American Indians and Alaska Natives. The month-long observance traces its roots to the turn of the 20th century when people first began making proposals for a single day on which to honor Native Americans. Beginning in 1995, and currently, the President issues an annual proclamation designating the month of November as "National American Indian Heritage Month."

The 2006 American Indian Heritage Month Celebration will be held to promote awareness of the accomplishments, history, and modern lives of American Indians in Colorado. The event will include reading of the Governor's Proclamation specifying November as American Indian Heritage Month in the State of Colorado, the Southern Ute Drum Gauge, and American Indian flutist, Eric Herrera, who will entertain the participants during the celebration.

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A historic photo gallery featuring portraits from the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal collection, dating back to the 1800's, will be on display during the Native American Indian Heritage Month Celebration. The following Tribal Elders from the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Tribes will be honored during the celebration:

Southern Ute Tribal Elders

Essie Kent
David Box
Ruby Garcia
Annie Bettini

Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Elders

Stella Eyetoo
Naomi Red
Dorothy Ketchum
Ira Cuthair
Alfred Wall Sr.

Invited guests include members of Colorado's General Assembly, local and state officials, the Commission on Higher Education as well as the Presidents/Chancellors of all four-year and two-year Colorado institutions of higher education, American Indian organizations and other community members.

For more information, please contact Ernest House, Jr., Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs, in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor at 303.866.5470.

In 1976, the Colorado General Assembly created, within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs. It was designed to be the official liaison between the two Ute Tribes and the State of Colorado. Since its inception, the Commission has worked with the two Ute Indian Tribes in Colorado and the off-reservation American Indian people who live in Colorado. The Lt. Governor serves as the chair of the Commission of Indian Affairs.

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